

APPENDIX B
(CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS)

12. (Amended) The core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 11 wherein the oligonucleotides include a moiety comprising a functional group which can bind to a nanoparticle.
13. (Amended) The core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 11 wherein all of the salt is added to the water in a single addition.
14. (Amended) The core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 11 wherein the salt is added gradually over time.
15. (Amended) The core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 11 wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride, ammonium chloride, sodium acetate, ammonium acetate, a combination of two or more of these salts, one of these salts in a phosphate buffer, and a combination of two or more these salts in a phosphate buffer.
16. (Amended) The core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 15 wherein the salt is sodium chloride in a phosphate buffer.
17. (Amended) The core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 11 wherein nanoparticle-oligonucleotide conjugates are produced which have the oligonucleotides present on surface of the nanoparticles at a surface density of at least 10 picomoles/cm².
18. (Amended) The core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 17 wherein the oligonucleotides are present on surface of the nanoparticles at a surface density of at least 15 picomoles/cm².

19. (Amended) The core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 18 wherein the oligonucleotides are present on surface of the nanoparticles at a surface density of from about 15 picomoles/cm² to about 40 picomoles/cm².